



## Public Utility Commission of Texas

7800 Shoal Creek Boulevard  
Austin, Texas 78757 • 512/458-0100

January 28, 1994

MBJ

Robert W. Gee  
Chairman

Karl R. Rábago  
Commissioner

Sarah Goodfriend  
Commissioner

The Honorable Dan Morales  
Attorney General  
ATTN: Opinions Committee  
P.O. Box 12548  
Austin, TX 78711-2548

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FILE # ML-24418-94

I.D.# 24418

RO-664

Dear General Morales:

Opinion Committee

We wish to request an Attorney General's opinion regarding the ability of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) to receive federal funds, directly or indirectly.

We are aware of several federal grants which we could use to acquire, analyze, and use significant new information; there are no doubt more. We are concerned that there may be statutory hindrances to our directly applying for, receiving, and expending federal funds.

In order for us to plan our best approach to identifying and exploiting federal resources, we would appreciate an opinion as to these matters:

1. Considering Chapter V, § 22, of the Appropriations Act, S.B. 5, 73rd Leg., and the Public Utility Regulatory Act, Art. 1446c, V.A.T.S. (1993), may the PUCT directly or indirectly apply for, receive, and/or expend federal funds?
2. May the PUCT apply directly for federal funds which would be sent to the Comptroller to be made available to us under the provisions of §402.103 of the Government Code or any other statute?
3. May the PUCT apply directly for federal funds which would be sent to the Office of State-Federal Relations, to be made available to us?
4. If we can identify other State agencies which are authorized to receive and expend federal funds, may we contract with them to forward federal funds to us, or join with us in a project which is federally-funded in whole or part?
5. May we provide office space and/or other resources to a student or faculty member of a public or private educational institution which has received federal funds for that purpose or any other? May such an institution reimburse us for those resources out of federal funds?

Sincerely,

Robert W. Gee  
Chairman

RWG/mee